

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ROME 09517 021600Z

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ACTION EB-07

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CIEP-01 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAЕ-00 FPC-01 H-02 INR-07

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TAGS: ENRG, IT, US

SUBJECT: US-ITALY BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP: PRESS RELEASE; PRESS REACTION

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. FOLLOWING IS TEXT OF JOINT PRESS RELEASE ISSUED BY ITALIAN GOVERNMENT ON JUNE 28, FOLLOWING EWG MEETING.

2. BEGIN TEXT. THE SECOND MEETING OF THE US-ITALY BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP TOOK PLACE IN ROME ON JUNE 28, 1975.

THE ITALIAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY MINISTER GIOVANNI MIGLIUOLO, WAS COMPOSED OF HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRIES OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS, INDUSTRY AND TREASURY AND THE BANK OF ITALY ASSISTED BY EXPERTS FROM ENI, CNEN, AND ENEL.

THE AMERICAN DELEGATION, HEADED BY ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE THOMAS O. ENDERS, WAS COMPOSED OF HIGH OFFICIALS OF THE DEPARTMENTS OF STATE AND TREASURY, AND THE ENERGY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ADMINISTRATION (ERDA).

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PAGE 02 ROME 09517 021600Z

THE PURPOSE OF THE CONVERSATIONS WAS NOT ONLY TO DISCUSS

BILATERAL COLLABORATION BETWEEN ITALY AND THE UNITED STATES, BUT ALSO INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENTS SUCH AS PROSPECTS FOR A RENEWAL OF THE DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE CONSUMING AND PRODUCING COUNTRIES, AND THOSE OF THE THIRD WORLD; THE CONDITION OF THE WORLD OIL MARKET, INCLUDING THE POSSIBILITY OF A FURTHER INCREASE IN WORLD OIL PRICES; AND MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES UNDERWAY, PARTICULARLY THOSE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY.

THE CONVERSATIONS CENTERED ON A DETAILED EXAMINATION OF INITIATIVES FOR COLLABORATION BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ITALY AIMED AT THE REALIZATION OF THE ITALIAN NUCLEAR ELECTRICAL PROGRAM; PARTICULARLY WITH REGARD TO THE SUPPLY OF NATURAL URANIUM AND OF THE AVAILABILITY OF ENRICHED URANIUM-- IN LIGHT OF THE RECENT DECISION OF PRESIDENT FORD FOR THE CREATION OF NEW ENRICHMENT FACILITIES--ACCES TO NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY AND ALTERNATIVES IN THE AREA OF FINANCING.

THE EWG DECIDED TO BEGIN A SERIES OF BILATERAL CONTACTS AT THE TECHNICAL LEVEL TO EXPLORE IN GREATER DEPTH THE SUBJECTS DEALING WITH COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES; AND, IN PARTICULAR, AGREED TO ESTABLISH A GROUP OF EXPERTS TO EXPLORE RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OF NATURAL URANIUM DEPOSITS. THE TECHNICAL ANALYSIS PROVIDED BY THE EXPERTS WILL FURNISH THE BILATERAL WORKING GROUP WITH NECESSARY ELEMENTS TO IDENTIFY COOPERATIVE PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO MINIMIZE THE RISK THAT ITALIAN OBJECTIVES IN THE NUCLEAR POWER SECTOR ARE FRUSTRATED DUE TO A SCARCITY OF NATURAL URANIUM.

IT WAS DECIDED THAT THE BILATERAL ENERGY WORKING GROUP HAVE ITS THIRD MEETING IN WASHINGTON AT THE END OF JULY, IF POSSIBLE, TO CONTINUE THE DISCUSSIONS ON THE ENTIRE RANGE OF THE SUBJECTS DEALT WITH IN THE JUNE 28 MEETING. THESE DISCUSSIONS WILL TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE RESULTS OF THE CONTACTS WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE MEANTIME AT THE TECHNICAL-FINANCIAL LEVEL. END TEXT.

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3. COMMENT: ABOVE TEXT WAS RELEASED BY MINISTRY FOREIGN AFFAIRS PREMATURELY AT 1750 ON JUNE 28. CONSEQUENTLY, SOME OF THE PROPOSED CHANGES DISCUSSED WITH BOSWORTH THAT EVENING CAN NOT BE MADE IN ENGLISH TEXT. HOWEVER, WE HAVE REVIEWED ENG-LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ROME 09517 021600Z

LISH TEXT AND MADE SEVERAL SMALL REVISIONS WHICH ARE STILL CONSISTENT WITH ITALIAN TEXT, WHILE AVOIDING UNDESIRABLE INTERPRETATIONS. MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS REGRETTED EARLY RELEASE WHICH IT DESCRIBED AS A MISTAKE.

IN ANY CASE, ITALIAN PRESS HAS ALMOST COMPLETELY IGNORED COMMUNIQUE'. TO DATE, WE HAVE ONLY SEEN ONE ARTICLE (IN ROME FINANCIAL DAILY IL FIORINO) WHICH DID NOT CONTAIN TEXT OF PRESS RELEASE BUT WAS COMMENTARY ON MEETING APPARENTLY BASED ON

BACKGROUND MATERIAL OBTAINED FROM SOME GOI SOURCE. ARTICLE MENTIONS THAT TALKS DEALT WITH FINANCING OF ITALIAN NUCLEAR PROGRAM, SUPPLIES OF NUCLEAR FUEL AND EXCHANGE OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. AUTHOR COMMENTS THAT US WRITTEN REPLY TO EARLIER ITALIAN PAPER DID NOT GIVE RISE TO MUCH ENTHUSIASM ON PART OF ITALIANS, WHO FOUND IT RATHER VAGUE. HOWEVER, ARTICLE NOTES THAT US REPLY DID NOT CLOSE DOOR TO PROBLEMS RAISED BY ITALIANS AND THAT SOME FORWARD PROGRESS WAS ACHIEVED. ARTICLE ALSO CLAIMS THAT THERE WAS SOME CONCERN ON PART OF ITALIANS WITH PRESIDENT FORD'S ANNOUNCEMENT ABOUT TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY ON ENRICHED URANIUM TO US PRIVATE INDUSTRY ON GROUNDS THAT EUROPEANS HAD BEEN INDUCED TO SIGN NUCLEAR NON-PROLIFERATION TREATY ON BASIS PROMISES OF GRATUITOUS TRANSFER OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY. NOW IT APPEARED THAT TECHNOLOGY WILL ONLY BE MADE AVAILABLE UNDER LICENSE WITH US PRIVATE INDUSTRY. END LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. VOLPE

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